

around the world, that this Congress is so adamant to speak out against, should not be encouraged or tolerated by our own Government policies. This ought to be boiler plate law and policy on our every action. Export-Import financing should promote progress in wages, living standards, and human rights here in the United States and around the globe. I've been encouraged by new progress on this topic regards many imports to the United States of America. U.S. sponsored financing should not undermine progress in these important areas or legitimize the negative status quo. U.S. Labor protections are just one reason why the United States has a good economy in the world today. Why should we lower the standards and protections that provide the foundation for U.S. prosperity? I urge my colleagues to support the Vento amendment which places the interests and well-being of our children ahead of international corporate profits.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I do not rise in opposition.

Madam Chairman, this amendment, as has been so fairly stated by its sponsor, prohibits the use of Exim assistance for exports to companies that employ child labor.

The majority does not intend to object to the amendment. The gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO] seeks to address a very serious human rights concern that is being examined in a number of fora, including the OECD, as well as by our own Customs Department.

Although we have doubts that Eximbank is the appropriate vehicle through which to address this issue, the amendment is certainly a powerful symbol of congressional concerns that inhumane child labor practices should not be tolerated.

Having said that, let me register some apprehensions the majority has regarding how the amendment would be implemented. Is there any comprehensive list available to the Bank of companies that employ child labor? Would the amendment apply retrospectively to new transactions only? How would it be enforced? Would foreign buyers of U.S. goods see this as an extraterritorial of U.S. laws?

It would be my hope that we would work with the sponsor of the amendment and the minority to iron out these details later in conference with the other body.

Having said that, we will not oppose the amendment. And I applaud the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO] for his thoughtful initiative.

Mr. VENTO. Madam Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CASTLE. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. VENTO. Madam Chairman, I appreciate the support of the subcommittee chairman and the questions he raised. There are not such lists, but there are other questions that we need to work together on. I appreciate his support, and I pledge myself to work with that and make this a part of the explicit policy of the Eximbank, the U.S. Export Bank, I guess, if we are successful with the new nomenclature

of the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE].

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, I would just say with respect to the name change, after some of the debates I have heard here in the 2 days we have debated this, I hope we can make this name change sooner rather than later. There seems to be a lot of confusion about what this bank does, I believe.

In any event, with respect to the amendment, it has been stated and we will support it.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO].

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SOLOMON] having assumed the chair, [Mrs. EMERSON], Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1370) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, had come to no resolution thereon.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SOLOMON). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SHAW] at 5 p.m.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 1, 1997, I missed rollcall votes 484 to 489. I was presenting testimony on behalf of my legislation, H.R. 765, to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call 484, 485, 487, 488 and 489. I would have voted "no" on roll call 486.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2160, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 232 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 232

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2160) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have adopted the concurrent resolution specified in section 3.

SEC. 3. The text of the concurrent resolution described in section 2 is as follows:

"Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of H.R. 2160 the Clerk of the House shall, in title IV, in the item relating to 'Domestic Food Programs—Food Stamp Program', strike the period and insert the following: *"Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for studies and evaluations.'".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington [Mr. HASTINGS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Hall), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 232 provides for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2160, a bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and its consideration, and upon its adoption the House shall be considered to have adopted the text of the following concurrent resolution: *"Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring*, that in the enrollment of H.R. 2160 the Clerk of the House shall, in title IV, in the item relating to 'Domestic Food Programs—Food Stamp Program', strike the period and insert the following: *"Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for studies and evaluations.'". This amendment, I understand, has been agreed to.